

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4611
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: US, GW
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT SPEAKS ON U.S./GERMAN RELATIONS

1. LATE ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 3, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
SPOKE BEFORE THE EAST ASIAN SOCIETY IN HAMBURG. DESPITE
HIS AUDIENCE, WHICH INCLUDED THE PRC AMBASSADOR, SCHMIDT
DEVOTED WELL OVER HALF HIS REMARKS TO GERMAN/AMERICAN
RELATIONS. MY TRANSLATION OF THESE SECTIONS OF THE SPEECH
FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT NEWSPAPERS ON BOTH SIDES OF
THE ATLANTIC AT THAT TIME (200 YEARS AGO) WROTE ABOUT
GERMAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS, BUT I DO KNOW THAT THE PUBLISHED
CONTRIBUTIONS CONCERNING THE SUBSTANCE AND SPIRIT OF OUR
PRESENT RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES VERY OFTEN AND IN
MANY DIFFERENT WAYS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH REALITY.

3. ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC AND MONETARY QUESTIONS ARE NOT
CONTINUOUSLY AT THE CENTER OF GERMAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS,
LET ME SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THEM NOW.

4. THE UNITED STATES IS, OUTSIDE OF EUROPE, OUR MOST
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IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER. IT WOULD BE INSINCERE AND EVEN
WRONG TO ASSERT THAT BETWEEN FRIENDS WHO DO BUSINESS TOGETHER
AND WHOSE ECONOMIES IN SO MANY AREAS ARE SO CLOSELY INTERWOVEN
THERE MUST ALWAYS BE PURE HARMONY IN ALL MATTERS.

5. THAT IS NOT EVEN TRUE IN A FAMILY. ON THE CONTRARY IN
A FAMILY IN WHICH IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ARGUE OR TO LISTEN

OR TO RESPOND, THEN TRUST IS MISSING. ALSO MISSING IS THE POSSIBILITY AND THE CAPABILITY OF OVERCOMING THE DIFFICULTIES AND FINDING COMMON SOLUTIONS.

6. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ARE TALKING. IN FACE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEMS AND THE SEVERAL POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS WHICH OFFER THEMSELVES OR ARE OFFERED WE ALSO ARGUE - AS ONLY FRIENDS CAN.

7. NO ONE SHOULD FORGET WHAT I HAVE CALLED THE GERMAN/AMERICAN CONSENSUS.

8. THE BASIS OF OUR FRIENDSHIP ARE HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, HUMAN TIES AND THE BROAD IDENTITY OF OUR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL VALUES.

9. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND ONE MUST SEE BOTH SIDES OF OUR MUTUAL TRADE AND THE CLOSE MESHING OF OUR ACTIONS.

10. IN THIS SENSE TOO ONE MUST VIEW THE COOPERATION OF THE CENTRAL BANKS IN CURRENCY MATTERS, AND NOT ONLY IN THESE.

11. THE GERMAN/AMERICAN TIES ARE A STABILIZING FACTOR THAT THE WORLD CAN DEPEND ON. THE EQUALLY DEPENDABLE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS NOT ONLY UNCLASSIFIED

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AN ALLIANCE OF NARROW PURPOSE.

12. AND THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SECURITY OF A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE IS CREDIBLE AND VITAL TO OUR EXISTENCE AND, AS WE HAVE SEEN NOW FOR DECADES, IT IS EFFECTIVE.

13. ON THE OTHER SIDE IT WAS EXACTLY THESE EUROPEAN/AMERICAN TIES THAT MADE BOTH THINKABLE AND THEN POSSIBLE THE COMING TOGETHER OF EUROPEAN STATES.

14. THE VISIBLE MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES IN EUROPE AND IN GERMANY IS NOT A NAKED PIECE OF REALPOLITIK CALCULATED TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER, BUT AN ENGAGEMENT OF CONVICTION - AN ENGAGEMENT THAT WE CONSCIOUSLY AND ALSO OUT OF CONVICTION HELP TO FORTIFY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR US.

15. IN ANY CASE, I FIND IT FITTING TO CONTRADICT THROUGH THESE COMMENTS THE MANY IRRITATIONS MADE PUBLIC AND HERE AND THERE TAKEN TO BE REAL. THE GERMAN/AMERICAN CONSENSUS CANNOT BE SHAKEN. THE GERMAN/AMERICAN CONSENSUS CANNOT BE SHAKEN.

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16. IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH AMERICAN SECRETARY OF THE
TREASURY BLUEMENTHAL, WHOM PRESIDENT CARTER SENT TO GERMANY,
WE DEFINED A VERY LARGE AREA OF COMMONALITY - EXACTLY AS I
SAID PUBLICALLY.

17. THE AMERICANS AND WE AGREE THAT THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS
SHOULD SEEK NONINFLATIONARY GROWTH. NOTE SHOULD BE TAKEN OF
THIS BY THOSE WHO STILL FLIRT WITH THE FALSE THEORY THAT IT
IS POSSIBLE TO CREATE JOBS THROUGH INFLATION. BUT WE BOTH
SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN GROWTH RATES.

18. MOREOVER THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, EXACTLY LIKE US,
SEES THE AVOIDANCE OF PROTECTIONISM AND THE FIGHT AGAINST
ITS SPREAD TO BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS BEFORE US
AND THEREFORE WE, PRECISELY AS DOES THE UNITED STATES, WANT TO
SEE A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION THE CURRENT GATT ROUND.

19. SIMILARLY WE ARE IN AGREEMENT -- THAT IS OUR
GOVERNMENTS ARE IN AGREEMENT -- IN QUESTIONS OF ENERGY POLICY
AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

20. THE RECOGNITION OF INTERDEPENDENCE IS A GROWING
CHARACTERISTIC OF THE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE TRIANGULAR
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USA -- E.G. -- JAPAN RELATIONSHIP, THE IMPORTANCE OF WHICH FOR THE ECONOMY OF THE WORLD IS UNQUESTIONABLE.

21. THERE IS ANOTHER SUBJECT THAT HAS CONCERNED THE PUBLIC IN RECENT MONTHS. THE DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE NEUTRON BOMB. THE EMOTION IN THIS DEBATE HAS RECEDED, AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITIES HAS GROWN. THE DISCUSSION HAS BECOME FACTUAL. THAT WAS MY HOPE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

22. QUESTIONS OF THIS KIND MUST BE DISCUSSED SINCERELY, FACTUALLY, AND ABOVE ALL EXPERTLY. IN THIS DISCUSSION THE RECOGNITION THAT ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE TERRIBLE AND DESTRUCTIVE PLAYS A ROLE. THE ENLARGED ARSENALS ON THE WESTERN SIDE AS ON THE EASTERN SIDE - ESPECIALLY THE STRATEGIC WEAPONS ON BOTH SIDES INCLUDING THE SOVIET MIDDLE RANGE WEAPONS DIRECTED AGAINST EUROPE WHICH ARE NOW BEING MODERNIZED - CONCEAL THE EXISTENCE OF A HUMANITY-DESTROYING POTENTIAL.

23. GERMANY IS NOT A NUCLEAR POWER. IT HAS ABSTAINED FROM THE PRODUCTION AND POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AND THEREFORE WE CAN MAKE NO DECISION REGARDING THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

24. THIS ATTITUDE SHOULD ALSO HELP GUIDE OTHER STATES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DANGER OF A FURTHER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS NOR DO WE WISH TO.

25. THE FRG IS A MEMBER OF NATO, AN ALLIANCE RECOGNIZED AS PURELY DEFENSIVE. OUR ARMED FORCES ARE TOTALLY INTEGRATED INTO NATO. WE TRUST THAT THE LEADING NUCLEAR POWER OF THE ALLIANCE -- IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL NUCLEAR THREAT -- WILL PROVIDE US WITH THE NECESSARY PROTECTION AND MAKE ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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DECISIONS ACCORDINGLY.

26. THE QUESTION OF INTRODUCING NEW WEAPONS INTO NATO IS A SUBJECT FOR ALLIANCE DISCUSSION. THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECURITY FOR ALLIANCE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL PLAY A PART IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. AS A PARTNER IN THIS ALLIANCE, IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR ALLIES, WE WILL BEAR OUR PART IN ANY DECISION CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODERNIZED NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD THAT BECOME NECESSARY.

27. THE FRG, AND I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THIS, FULLY SUPPORTS ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT.

28. I REPEAT, WE HAVE DECLINED TO MAKE OR POSSESS NUCLEAR

WEAPONS; WE ARE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
IN VIENNA AND WE EXPRESSLY SUPPORT THE SALT TALKS.

29. THEREFORE WE MUST EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES TO ACHIEVE
SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS PARTICULARLY IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
(THIS SENTENCE CONTAINED IN THE MANUSCRIPT THE FOLLOWING
CONCLUDING PHRASE DROPPED BY SCHMIDT: 'BEFORE A DECISION IS
MADE TO DEPLOY THE NEUTRON BOMB'). END QUOTE.KISELYAK

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